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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/529,781	03/30/2005	Christian Wulff	268898US0PCT	1489
22850 7590 08/21/2007 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER SOLOLA, TAOFIQ A	
			ART UNIT 1625	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 08/21/2007	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/529,781

Applicant(s)

WULFF ET AL.

Examiner

Taofiq A. Solola

Art Unit

1625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-19 and 23-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-19 and 24-32 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-3 and 23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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Claims 1-19, 23-32 are pending in this application.

Claims 20-22 are cancelled.

Claims 1-2 (in part), 4-19, 24-32 are drawn to non-elected invention.

Response to Restriction Requirement

The election of group II, claims 1-2 (in part), 3 and 23 with traverse in the Paper filed 7/10/07, is hereby acknowledged. The traversal is on the basis that the inventions are related because they are intermediates for making compound Ic, and that it would not be a serious burden on the Examiner to search all the groups. This is not persuasive because each intermediate is claimed as a separate invention, each belongs to a different class and subclasses and the Examiner is required to search all the classes and subclasses of each group. Such would be a serious burden. Also, not all the groups are drawn to intermediate compounds, and Applicant fails to identify which groups are intermediate compounds.

Therefore, the restriction is still proper and made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 3, 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horibe et al., JP.2001/300286, and Okutsu et al., JP 2001/114719, individually, in view of Rubinfeld et al., US 3,320,174, Durbut et al., WO 97/04059, (Durbut I) Durbut et al., WO 98/00418 (Durbut II) and Potthoff-Karl et al., US 5,994,290, individually.

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Applicant claims compounds of formula (I) wherein A and B together form 1,3-furandione ring and composition thereof. In preferred embodiments, Applicant claims the compositions having different percentages of the compounds, and at least another active ingredient.

Determination of the scope and content of the prior art (MPEP 2141.01)

Horibe et al., teach similar compounds and methods of using them as surfactants. See the marked compounds in the abstracts.

Okutsu et al., teach similar compounds and methods of using them as surfactants. See the marked compounds in the abstracts.

Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims (MPEP 2141.02)

The difference between the instant invention and that of Horibe et al., and Okutsu et al., is that the alky chain in the compounds of Applicant is longer than in the prior arts. Also, applicant claims different percent compositions of the compounds and a composition comprising additional active surfactant. In other words, applicant replaced H with alky in the compounds of the prior arts.

Finding of prima facie obviousness—rational and motivation (MPEP 2142.2413)

However, Rubinfeld et al., (col. 3-8, particularly tables III and IV), Durbut I and II (pages 21-22 and 6-24 respectively) and Potthoff-Karl et al., (col. 12-14, tables 1-2) teach various percent compositions of surfactant/detergent compounds. Also, H and alkyl are art recognized equivalents. *In re Lincoln*, 126 USPQ 477, 53 USPQ 40 (CCPA, 1942); *In re Druey*, 319 F.2d 237, 138 USPQ 39 (CCPA, 1963); *In re Lohr*, 317 F.2d 388, 137 USPQ 548 (CCPA, 1963); *In re Hoehsema*, 399 F.2d 269, 158 USPQ 598 (CCPA, 1968); *In re Wood*, 582 F.2d 638, 199 USPQ 137 (CCPA, 1978); *In re Hoke*, 560 F.2d 436, 195 USPQ 148 (CCPA, 1977); *Ex parte Fauque*, 121 USPQ 425 (POBA, 1954); *Ex parte Henkel*, 130 USPQ 474, (POBA, 1960).

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When the difference between compounds is the length of a carbon chain such are adjacent homologs. However, adjacent homologs are prima facie obvious. *In re Henze*, 85 USPQ 261 (1950). For the compounds of the prior art to be used as surfactants they must be used in form of compositions. Therefore, the instant invention is prima facie obvious from the teachings of the prior arts. One of ordinary skill in the art would have known to claim various percent compositions of the compounds and replace H with alkyl at the time the invention was made. The motivation is from knowing that surfactants/cosurfactants are used in various percent compositions of the compounds as taught in the prior arts, from knowing that H and alkyl are equivalents and that adjacent homologs would have similar biochemical properties.

Priority Claim

The instant application claims priority to a foreign document. However, a certified English translation copy of the document has not been filed. Therefore, the priority is denied. However, the denial would be revisited when the copy is filed. Also, English translation of the International Search Report has not been filed.

Telephone Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Taofiq A. Solola, PhD. JD., whose telephone number is (571) 272-0709.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janet Andres, can be reached on (571) 272-0867. The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Taofiq Solola', with a stylized, overlapping flourish at the end.

TAOFIQ SOLOLA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Group 1626

August 9, 2007